

Message Text

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12
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 OPR-02 SY-05 A-01 SSO-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CCO-00

L-02 SS-15 PRS-01 /066 W
----- 054677

Z R 241047Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 4027
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL UDORN
MACTHAI J-3
DIA
CINCPAC
CDR USSAG NKP

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 3682

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

JAKARTA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LA, US
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S BRIEFING: REPORT ON CHARGE'S MAY 24
CONVERSATIONS WITH PRIMIN AND FONMIN

REF: HOGANSON TELECON WITH TEARE/RAMSEY 240730Z MAY 75

1. EVERY NIGHT AND MORNING SEEMS TO BRING NEW CRISIS
WHICH WE SEEK TO WORK OUT DURING THE DAY. LAST NIGHT ALL
TAPS GUARDS WERE PULLED AWAY BY PL AND THIS MORNING THERE
WAS DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF EMBASSY OF USAID EMPLOYEES
SEEKING THEIR PAY. NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDER WAY TO REACH
AGREEMENT ON SEVERANCE PAY FOR GUARDS BUT PAYMENT OF
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USAID EMPLOYEES IS OF COURSE LINKED TO OUR ABILITY TO

WORK IN USAID OFFICES. IN LIGHT OF PGNU'S INABILITY/
UNWILLINGNESS TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE, WE ARE SPEAKING
DIRECTLY TO USAID EMPLOYEES AND SEEKING STUDENT LEADERS.

2. IN VIEW OF THE FRUSTRATING CONVERSATIONS I HAVE HAD
OVER PAST DAYS WITH FONMIN PHOUMI AND MINISTER OF
ECONOMY AND PLAN (AND CO-CHAIRMAN OF JCCIA) SOTH PHETRASY,
THE UNCERTAINTIES SURROUNDING FREE MOVEMENT OF PERSONAL
EFFECTS (WHICH ARE ACCUMULATING FAST), THE CONTINUED
OCCUPATION OF USAID COMPOUND, AND MOST IMMEDIATELY IN
VIEW OF GATHERING DEMONSTRATION BEFORE EMBASSY LEFT
WITHOUT POLICE PROTECTION, I ASKED FOR URGENT MEETING
WITH PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA WHO RECEIVED ME AT
10:00 A.M.

3. AS SOON AS I MENTIONED DEMONSTRATION, HE CALLED
SOTH TO HAVE MIXED POLICE INSURE SECURITY OF EMBASSY.
I THEN WENT OVER DIFFICULTIES IN ALL FIELDS WE HAD BEEN
EXPERIENCING. I SAID THAT IN MY VIEW THERE WAS NEED
OF MEETING WITH AT LEAST HIMSELF, PHOUMI AND SOTH, AND
ON OUR PART, ACTING USAID DIRECTOR RAMSEY AND MYSELF.
I SAID PROBLEMS CONFRONTING US WERE NOT DIFFICULT IN
THEMSELVES, BASIC ISSUES OF PRINCIPLE HAD BEEN MUTUALLY
AGREED AND WHAT WE NEEDED WAS TO SIT DOWN AND DECIDE
HOW TO PROCEED PRACTICALLY. (COUNTRY TEAM HAS BECOME
CONVINCED THAT WE HAVE TO GET SOUVANNA AND PHOUMI IN
SAME ROOM TO TALK TO THEM TOGETHER; OTHERWISE PHOUMI
ALWAYS SLIPS AWAY.) SOUVANNA AGREED AND SET MEETING FOR
10:00 A.M. MONDAY, MAY 26.

4. I POINTED OUT THAT THERE WERE URGENT PROBLEMS --
DEMONSTRATIONS, SHIPMENT OF EFFECTS DIFFICULTIES, GUARDS --
WHICH MUST BE DEALT WITH BEFORE THEN. BUT HE WAS
FIRM; ON THE REST HE SAID HE WOULD TALK TO SOTH PHETRASY.
HOWEVER, HE ADDED A VERY REVEALING COMMENT: "YOU DON'T
KNOW," HE SAID, "HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO DEAL WITH UN-
EDUCATED PEOPLE. THEY LACK UNDERSTANDING AND THEY ARE
STUBBORN." FROM THERE HE WENT ON TO DENY LAOS GOING
COMMUNIST (HE SHOWED ME WIRE SERVICE REPORT OF NISSEN'S
STATEMENT THAT USG DID NOT CONSIDER LAOS COMMUNIST).
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AS LONG AS HE WAS ALIVE, DESPITE WHAT PEOPLE SAID OF HIM,
LAOS WOULD NOT BE COMMUNIST, HE SAID. "AFTER I PASS ON,
I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN."

5. ON MY WAY BACK, FINDING ROAD TO EMBASSY BLOCKED,
I WENT TO FONMIN AND CRASHED IN ON PHOUMI, SAYING THAT
I COULD NOT RETURN TO MY OFFICE AND WAS THEREFORE SEEK-
ING REFUGE IN MINISTRY. WE THEN HAD A CHAT. PHOUMI

WENT OVER DEMANDS OF DEMONSTRATORS, ALONG LINES SOTH
PRESENTED THEM LAST EVENING, BUT SEEMED TO EHPHASIZE
NEED FOR WRITTEN STATEMENT BY EMBASSY. HE INDICATED
THAT WITH SUCH A STATEMENT IT MIGH#JDF*0H*I@QU
P(T"!Q#/T#VIJ_FBE;!*
?+K*0<76_KH C@.(X 8HK(RU<V(RP,UK08AXW#ITWW#,UF#BDF;KGD*DZ*0#QS
M;F22K@_D A1@3Y
/P2FK7<3FXZD;RW
>O+U((QG
<,3HR<2&#Y@M'RIF8QK
27D-@+D-YP8W49/B,Q+<W9

W
GE5/TJ(K<"/)/KD,H
_HPH*5K|>
K? .&,># K1K

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